

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Union Territories								
26. A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29. Daman & Diu	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
30. Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	366	2817	618	258	52	427	214	28

Condition of Disabled Persons

1629. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Disabled a neglected lot in India" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 9, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken to improve the condition of the disabled persons ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The news item mainly focused on the attempts of the "Disabled Peoples" International alongwith 108 NGOs to work out a disability index.

(c) No response has been formulated by the Government so far as the scientific basis of the methodology used in working out the disability index is not known in detail. The steps taken to improve the conditions of the disabled in India are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Apart from bringing in a comprehensive piece of legislation, namely the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 which aims *inter alia* at equalisation of opportunities to the disabled and their integration in the mainstream, the Ministry of Welfare has been administering a number of schemes under which grant-in-aid is given to NGOs for undertaking activities for the welfare of the handicapped such as purchase and fitment of aids and appliances, establishment and development of special schools, vocational training, rehabilitation etc.

Four National Institutes catering to different types of disability and two apex level institutes have been running courses so that trained manpower becomes available for the benefit of the disabled. These institutes have also been providing other services for the disabled. The Rehabilitation Council of India, a statutory body has been set up for standardisation of training material, courses and professionals in the field of disability.

The Act of 1995 provides for at least 3% reservation for specified categories of disabled persons in identified jobs under the Government. Employment opportunities for the disabled are also being promoted through provision of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Govts/UT Admns., preference in allotment of Public Telephone Booths and in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc. 47 Special Employment Exchanges and 41 Special Cells in the normal employment exchanges have set up by State Govts to help in placement of the disabled persons. 80% of the expenditure on setting up special employment exchanges and 100% of expenditure on special cells is borne by the Central Government.

A National handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been incorporated recently to provide loans on easy terms to the handicapped persons to set up self-employment ventures.

Hague Convention on Child Adoption

1630. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hague Convention on the Child adopts 1993 was ratified by India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;